

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that: My residence, post-office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe that I am an original, first, and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**RETRACTILE MOTOR-VEHICLE TRAILER HITCH**

the specification of which was filed 12 November 2003 as application 10/712,311.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 USC 119 of any foreign applications for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign applications for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

**Prior Foreign Applications**

Country	Number	Filing Date	Priority claimed
Germany	10252722.9	13 November 2002	Yes
Germany	10320302.8	7 May 2003	Yes

I hereby appoint as attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business connected therewith:

**Herbert Dubno, Reg. 19,752; Andrew Wilford, Reg. 26,597; Jonathan Myers, Reg. 26,963** and each of them individually.

Address all correspondence to:

**The Firm of Karl F. Ross, P.C.**  
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 USC 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of first inventor: **Reinhold AUFDERHEIDE**

Inventor's signature *Reinhold Aufderheide* Date: 20 January 2004

Residence: **Rietberg, Germany**

Citizen of Germany

Post-office Address: **Lannertstrasse 101, D-33397 Rietberg, Germany**

Full name of second inventor: **Friedrich DOMKE**

Inventor's signature *Friedrich Domke* Date: 20 January 2004

Residence: **Herzebrock-Clarholz, Germany**

Citizen of Germany

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Full name of third inventor: **Alexander GIESBRECHT**

Inventor's signature Alexander Giesbrecht Date: 19. January 2004

Residence: **Ennigerloh, Germany**

Citizen of Germany

Post-office Address: **Ostenfelderstrasse 40, D-59320 Ennigerloh, Germany**

Full name of fourth inventor:

**Gerhard HERMBUSCH**

Inventor's signature Gerhard Hermbusch Date: 19. January 2004

Residence: **Langenberg, Germany**

Citizen of Germany

Post-office Address: **Westfalenstrasse 24, D-33449 Langenberg, Germany**

Full name of fifth inventor:

**Andreas MERSCH**

Inventor's signature Andreas Mersch Date: 19. January 2004

Residence: **Rheda-Wiedenbrück, Germany**

Citizen of Germany

Post-office Address: **Burgweg 92, D-33378 Rheda-Wiedenbrück, Germany**

Full name of sixth inventor:

**Jürgen PEITZ**

Inventor's signature Jürgen Peitz Date: 19 January 2004

Residence: **Rheda-Wiedenbrück, Germany**

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Post-office Address: **Wilhelm Leibl Strasse 12, D-33378 Rheda-Wiedenbrück, Germany**

Full name of seventh inventor:

**Dirk VAHLE**

Inventor's signature Dirk Vahle Date: 19 January 2004

Residence: **Ennigerloh, Germany**

Citizen of Germany

Post-office Address: **Buschkamp 12, D-59320 Ennigerloh, Germany**

Full name of eighth inventor:

**Burkhard WENIGER**

Inventor's signature Burkhard Weniger Date: 18. January 2004

Residence: **Welter-Berwicke, Germany**

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Post-office Address: **Huer 3, D-59514 Welter-Berwicke, Germany**

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Ser. No. 10/712,311

Full name of ninth inventor:

*Martin WYRWICH*

Inventor's signature

*Martin Wyrwich*

Date:

*19 January 2004*

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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor **Reinhold AUFDERHEIDE et al**  
Patent App. **10/712,311**  
Filed **12 November 2003**  
For **RETRACTILE MOTOR-VEHICLE TRAILER HITCH**  
Art Unit **Not known**  
Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**STATEMENT AS TO REPRESENTATION**

With respect to the above-identified application, the undersigned hereby authorizes the United States Attorneys and Agents named in the Declaration accompanying the application or in any Declaration subsequently filed in the application to expect and follow instructions from:

Hemmerich Müller Grosse  
Pollmeier Valentin Gihlske  
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for any action to be taken in the United States Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the above-mentioned United States Attorneys or Agents and the undersigned. In the event of change in the person or persons from whom instructions may be taken, the above-mentioned United States Attorneys or Agents named in such Declaration will be so notified by the undersigned.

Date:

20 January 2004

Signed:

Reinhold Aufderheide  
Reinhold AUFDERHEIDE

Date:

20 January 2004

Signed:

Friedrich Domke  
Friedrich DOMKE

Date:

19 January 2004

Signed:

Alexander Giesbrecht  
Alexander GIESBRECHT

Date:

19 January 2004

Signed:

Gerhard Hermbusch  
Gerhard HERMBUSCH

Date:

19 January 2004

Signed:

Andreas Mersch  
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Date:

19 January 2004

Signed:

Jürgen Peitz  
Jürgen PEITZ

Date: 19 January 2004

Date: 19 January 2004

Date: 19 January 2004

Signed: Dirk Vahl  
Dirk VAHLE

Signed: Burkhard Weniger  
Burkhard WENIGER

Signed: Martin Wyrwich  
Martin WYRWICH